

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, 4 - 14 are currently pending.

Rejection based on 35 U.S.C. § 101

Dependent claims 6 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Office Action states, "In view of Applicant's disclosure, . . . , the computer readable medium is not limited to statutory embodiments, instead being defined as including both statutory embodiments (e.g., computer storage media such as RAM, ROM ect.) and non-statutory embodiments (e.g., communication media such as carrier waves)."

The specification has been amended and no longer defines the computer readable medium to include non-statutory embodiments. Given this amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6 and 13 are in condition for allowance.

Rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-2 and 4-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,385,662 ("Moon") and Cecchini et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,790,122 ("Cecchini"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because neither Moon nor Cecchini disclose each and every limitation recited in independents claims 1 and 8, as amended.

Claim 1, as amended, recites "receiving one or more user inputs associating at least one of a plurality of user selectable hiding behaviors with at least a portion of said notification items." At least one of these behaviors is "an inactivity hiding behavior that hides the corresponding notification item icon when a preset threshold of inactivity with is met," while

another of the behaviors “displays the corresponding notification item icon without regard to said preset threshold of inactivity. Similarly, Claim 8, as amended, recites “providing a set of user selectable hiding behaviors to be associated with at least a portion of the notification item icons.” Neither reference teaches these elements.

Moon discloses techniques for processing information and teaches a user interface display upon which a status bar is presented to the user. Following a particular instance of an event, a status message is displayed within the status bar. For example, Moon discloses displaying a message icon in response to the receipt of a particular email message. When a user chooses to ignore the message, it is removed from the status bar and is placed into a history file. Subsequently, a user must select to view this history file to ascertain details about the particular instance of the event.

The interface of Cecchini includes a set of navigation controls such as a page turn icon. These controls are hidden from view until the user moves a mouse pointer to a screen location known as a “hotspot.” When the pointer is in a hotspot, the navigation controls will be presented to the user, and the user may indicate desired navigational commands. Movement of the mouse curser away from the hotspot will cause the controls to be hidden. In sum, Cecchini provides an interface that presents and hides certain navigation controls based on the position of a mouse pointer.

Neither Moon nor Cecchini, however, teaches allowing user-selection of different inactivity-dependent hiding rules for the notification items. Stated another way, neither reference allows the user to choose which items will be hidden after a period of inactivity and which inactive items will not be hidden (*i.e.*, remain visible).

In fact, the only reference that contemplates inactivity-hiding, Moon, teaches away from varying the displaying/hiding characteristics of different notification items. One of the problems addressed by Moon is that different messages may be displayed in different manners and in accordance with different rules. Moon, col. 2, ll. 11-27. To solve this problem, Moon simply eliminates the different categories of messages. Moon, col. 3, ll. 27 – 30. “In solving the problem created by the division of status messages into the two categories previously discussed, **the present invention eliminates the division entirely and treats all messages as equally important.**” Moon, col. 5, ll. 54 – 57 (emphasis added). By eliminating different categories of messages, Moon explicitly teaches away from treating messages differently and displaying/hiding messages in accordance with different rules.

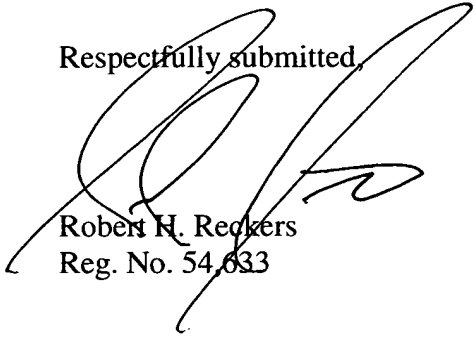
In contrast, Claim 1, as amended, recites “receiving one or more user inputs associating at least one of a plurality of user selectable hiding behaviors with at least a portion of said notification items.” Similarly, Claim 8, as amended, recites “providing a set of user selectable hiding behaviors to be associated with at least a portion of the notification item icons.” At least one of these user selectable hiding behaviors is “an inactivity hiding behavior that hides the corresponding notification item icon when a preset threshold of inactivity with is met.” This claim language represents a critical distinction between the claimed invention and the references; namely, the references do not teach allowing the user to select which notification items will be removed from view after a period of inactivity and which items will be displayed without regard to inactivity. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 8 are in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicants submit that dependent claims 2, and 4-7, which depend from claim 1, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Applicants also submit that dependent claims 9-14, which depend from claim

8, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 8.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, claims 1, 2, and 4 - 14 are now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the pending rejections and allowance of claims 1, 2, and 4 - 14. If any issues remain which would prevent issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned prior to issuing a subsequent action. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional amount required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-2112.

Respectfully submitted,



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